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LB 299

of those penalty classifications. The bill came up quickly, more so than we had expected because of our leaving LB 692 this morning. So over the noonhour, with the very able assistance of the "Silver Fox" who was there conversing with Senator Peterson at this point, we have arrived at what may be a compromise that all of us can accept. I am not opposed to dealing with the amphetamine problem, but as with other crimes, I do not want to see excessive punishment. I think as a matter such as the problem with amphetamines will get a higher and higher profile, because of the coverage and attention given by the media, there might be a tendency to overreact when we react at all. So some of the penalties in the bill as it exists now would constitute what I and others deem to be an overreaction. But remember, that was the first offering of that bill. So with the work that we've done over the noonhour, the penalties are still what I consider very steep, and ordinarily I would fight against them. But Senator Peterson is negotiating, I hate that word, in good faith and I cannot expect to get everything that I want in the way that I want it, but I, and Senator Brashear has agreed, would like to see some change in the general classification of penalties because when you have a setup of several different categories of felony, but the maximum penalty is the same in all three, that means that the one who commits the least serious felony can conceivably receive the same punishment as the one who receives the most...who committed the most serious. So what we would like to do, and Senator Brashear has agreed that it can be the subject of a study during the interim, is change those maximum sentences so that there will exist a difference, a true difference, between and among these different categories or classifications of felonies. So what I think Senator Brashear may have done is to put in final form the changes that we will make. However, that change that was made on the chart that you have looked at will have to be reduced to language so that in the bill itself, that language that we will insert will be converted from numbers to words. And the existing penalties that will be changed will obviously have to be stricken. So in order for that to take place, I'm going to discuss this kill motion. Then when we have that amendment drafted, I'll withdraw that kill motion and we can proceed to discuss the amendment that will be offered. One reason I had to offer the kill motion was because the bill has no committee amendments. If I had spoken three times, that would be end and the next vote would be